

NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION



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STATE OF MONTANA

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DECISION NOTICE ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Harlowton Water System Improvements – Phase 5
December 17, 2021
City of Harlowton
Lat 46.43515 Long -109.83045
Wheatland County

Existing Environmental Review Document:
Harlowton Water Distribution System Improvements USACE-EA
USACE FONSI January 2020 - Attached

Type and Purpose of Action

Located in central Montana, the City of Harlowton is the county seat of Wheatland County. The City's water distribution system is primarily comprised of aged iron water lines constructed in the 1930's. Increased system pressure from a new water storage tank have exacerbated the deteriorated thin pipe and increased the severity of system leakage as well as major line breaks creating the following issues:

- Unaccounted for water exceeds 50% over the last three years.
- Imminent public health and safety problems can result from main breakages when low or zero static pressures allow for inflow/backflow and infiltration of potential contaminants.
- Excessive leakage through the Mager Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Trust Fund Site drives the recharge of the shallow contaminated aquifer, causing increased head differential between local shallow groundwater and its discharge point into the Musselshell River.

The preferred alternative is to construct improvements to the City's drinking water distribution system to include:

- Replace 7,200 lineal feet of cast iron pipe with 6-inch PVC main.
- Replace 700 lineal feet of failing pipe contiguous to the DEQ-defined Mager LUST Trust Fund Site with 6-inch PE-wrapped ductile iron pipe with nitrile gaskets
- Replace 12 fire hydrants.

Construction of the project is scheduled to begin in June of 2022 and expected to be complete by January 2023.

The proposed improvements to the City of Harlowton's water distribution will protect public health and safety, result in a decrease of energy consumption, conserve beneficial and municipal domestic use of groundwater resources and mitigate contamination of the Musselshell River.

Explanation of the decision(s) that must be made regarding the proposed action (i.e. approve grant or loan and provide funding):

DNRC will approve the grant AND/OR loan to provide funding for Phase 5 of the City of Harlowton's Water System Improvements project.

Criteria for Adopting Existing Environmental Review

- ☒ The existing environmental review covers an action paralleling or closely related to the proposed action.
- ☒ The information in the existing environmental review is accurate and clearly presented.
- ☒ The information in the existing environmental review is applicable to the action being considered.
- ☒ All appropriate Agencies were consulted during preparation of the existing environmental review.
- ☒ Alternatives to the proposed action evaluated as part of the existing environmental review effort.
- ☒ The impacts of the proposed action been accurately identified as part of the existing environmental review.
- ☒ The existing environmental review identifies any significant impacts as a result of the proposed action and those identified will they be mitigated below the level of significance.

Adopt

The existing environmental review can be considered sufficient to satisfy DNRC's MEPA review responsibilities. No further analysis needed.

Existing Analysis Reviewed By:	Name: David C Larson, P.E.	Date: 02/18/2022
	Title: DNRC CARDD Engineer	
	Email: Dclarson@ mt.gov	

Approved By:	Name: Mark Bostrom
	Title: CARDD Division Administrator
Signature:	Date: 2/22/2022 2:25:01 PM MST

DocuSigned by:

Mark W Bostrom

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Environmental Review Documents and the Decision Notice for this project are available to the general public by request at the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Conservation and Resource Development Division (CARDD) at 1539 11th Ave, Helena, MT.
Phone (406) 444-2951

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, PHASE 4
CITY OF HARLOWTON, MONTANA
January 2020**

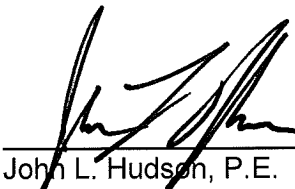
In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and its implementing regulations, the attached Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared by Great West Engineering and the City of Harlowton describes the expected direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of the proposed water distribution system improvements on the existing environment. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District (Corps) has independently evaluated the EA and determined that the EA adequately and accurately discusses the purpose and need, describes the existing environmental conditions, describes the environmental impacts, and provides appropriate mitigation measures in accordance with the NEPA.

Two alternatives were considered: (1) No Action Alternative and (2) Construct Phase 4 Water System Improvements (Recommended Plan). Two options to the proposed action that were considered during the development of the 2016 update of the City's 2014 Water System Preliminary Engineering Report include the No Action and Alternative 2; replace approximately 6,200 LF (Phase 4) of undersized and failing cast iron pipe with ductile iron and PVC pipe. The No Action alternative was eliminated because it was determined that it would cause a steady increase in the frequency of pipe breaks, leaks, or other sanitary defects, with associated risk to public health from the various contaminants within an adjacent LUST site. The Recommended Plan would further reduce the risk of exposing the public that each break in the water distribution system engenders as well as the risk of inflow of hydrocarbon contaminated soil or groundwater.

All environmental, cultural, and economic factors relevant to the Recommended Plan were considered in the attached EA. No significant impacts are expected to occur to these resources as the resources either do not occur within the proposed project area or the construction is considered minor and temporary in nature and appropriate Best Management Practices would be implemented to avoid adverse impacts. The Recommended Plan will result in short term/minor construction-related impacts. These impacts include increased noise in the project area during construction and increased particulate matter from exhaust and dust generated by construction equipment. These impacts are considered temporary, are minimized with Best Management Practices, and pre-existing conditions will reestablish following construction.

After evaluating the anticipated environmental, economic, and social effects of the proposed activity, it is my determination that implementation of the Recommended Plan would not constitute a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of human environment. The proposed action has been coordinated with the appropriate resource agencies and the public, and there are no significant unresolved issues. Therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Date: 21 Jan 2020


John L. Hudson, P.E.
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Commander

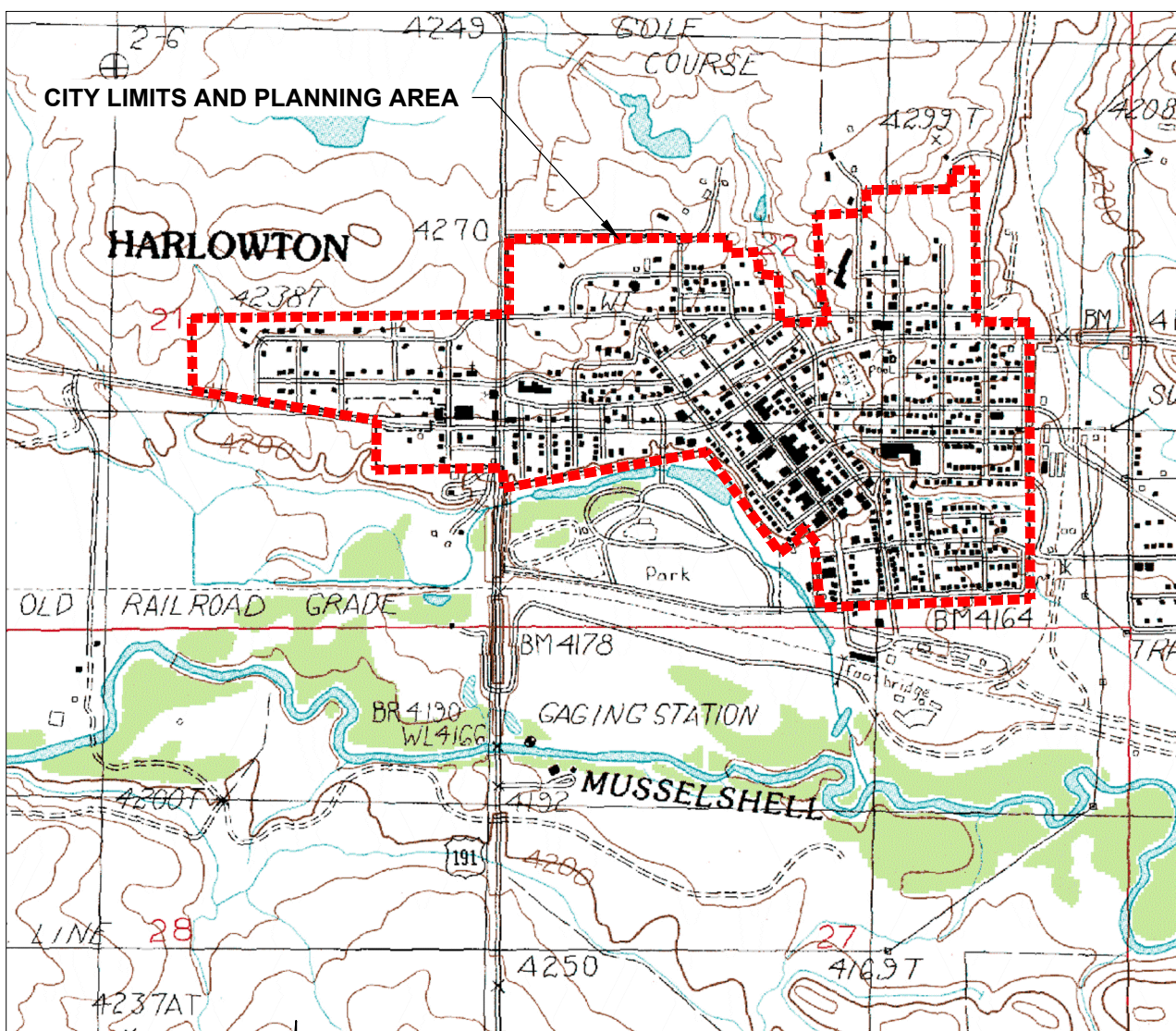
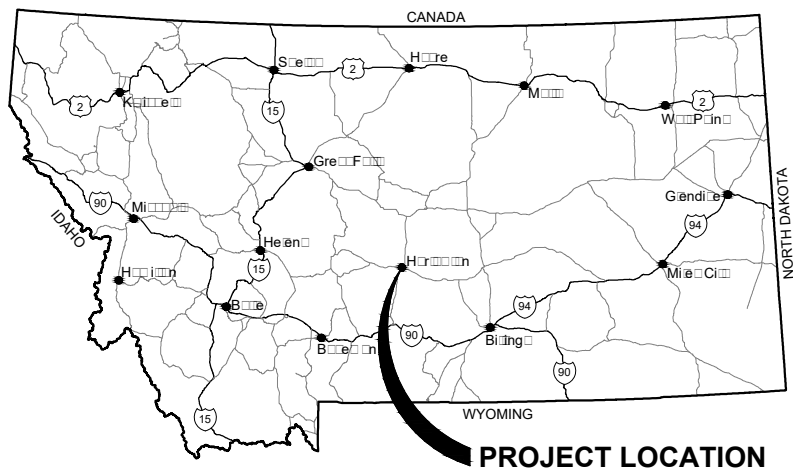


Figure 2-1
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP AND
PLANNING AREA

CITY OF HARLOWTON
WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS



0 750 1500
SCALE IN FEET

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